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New Phase Opens

Sommers Appeal Tomorrow

MRS. V. A. THISTLE

Complex Hearing Expected

One of the most celebrated cases in the history of the B.C. courts opens a new phase here tomorrow when former lands and forests minister Robert E. Sommers launches an appeal against his conviction and five-year sentence for bribery and conspiracy.

Like the record six-month trial of Sommers and others which ended at the Vancouver assizes last Nov. 5, the appeal will be complex. It will revolve around technical points of law and the actions and decisions of the trial judge, Mr. Justice J. O. Wilson.

GRAY APPEALING

Appealing along with the former Social Credit cabinet minister is his convicted co-conspirator, Vancouver timber executive H. W. Gray, and his companies, Pacific Coast Services Ltd. and Evergreen Lumber Sales.

Gray drew a five-year sentence and his companies were fined $15,250 and $4,000 respectively.

LENGTHY TRIAL

Special Crown prosecutor Victor Dryer, who conducted the prosecution at the lengthy trial, will argue before the appeal court that Sommers' sentence should have been five years on conspiracy alone and that sentences on this and the bribery counts should have been concurrent.

The 48-year-old Sommers, who was minister from 1952 until his resignation when the case broke in 1956, drew consecutive one-year terms on each of five charges of accepting bribes while in office and a one-year concurrent term on a conspiracy charge.

EIGHT TERMS

Gray was sentenced to eight one-year terms, for bribery, five to be consecutive and three concurrent, with an additional concurrent one-year term for conspiracy.

Legal authorities here say that if the appeal is conducted only on points of law, it probably won't last more than a week. But if some counsel go into the trial evidence, it could last much longer.

Sommers, a one-time forestry branch employee, became minister of lands and forests when Premier Bennett's Social Credit government first came to power in 1952. He resigned in February, 1956, just before the start of a government-ordered police investigation of corruption charges levelled by one-time Pacific Coast Services bookkeeper Charles Eversfield.

The bookkeeper later became chief crown witness in the case and identified documents he took from Pacific files when he left the company's employ early in 1955.

RETAINED SEAT

Sommers retained his Rossland-Trail seat in the legislature until his conviction and then resigned. A byelection there since has returned a Social Credit member.

Eversfield and Vancouver lawyer David Sturdy saw Attorney-General Bonner in December, 1955, and made their accusations.

UNDER FIRE

Bonner has been under political fire for not laying charges until November 1957. In a recent defence of his actions in the legislature the attorney-general said that the statutory declaration given him by Eversfield in 1955 had no supporting evidence. When he got this evidence he ordered a police investigation which resulted in the laying of charges.

Basis of the Crown's case was that while in cabinet office Sommers accepted several thousand dollars in bribes and rugs for his Victoria home in return for use of his influence in getting forest management licences for certain firms.

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Seen In Passing

Mrs. V. A. Thistle, secretary of the Red Cross blood donor panel since 1948, preparing for the next clinic, to be held March 11. (A member of Victoria Red Cross branch since 1939, Mrs. Thistle lives at 548 Victoria Avenue. Her husband, **Ralph**, has retired. Mrs. Thistle's hobbies are sewing for her son Charles' four children, and gardening.) . . . **Arnold Westaway** watching a frogman jump off a Shoal Harbor wharf . . . **Dudley Johnson** transporting three barrels of dogfish liver . . . **Frank Allen** enthusiastically applauding at an amateur boxing show . . . **Odile Winfield** talking about husband **Stan's** name being in this column . . . **Don Sutherland** selling Valentine Day cards to a tardy customer yesterday afternoon . . . **Harry Mills** keeping an eagle eye out for shoplifters . . . **Norm Galbraith** keeping HIS eagle eye out for juvenile delinquents . . . **John Coppinger** walking across Wharf Street . . . **Vic Leigh** talking about construction of Ann Hathaway cottage at The Olde England Inn . . . **Rosamund Rand** battling the flu . . . **Joe McAllister** leading the fleet home in a race between RCN Sailing Association and Royal Victoria Yacht Club.

Liquor Store

Youthful Suspect Arrested

A 16-year-old boy was held yesterday after city detectives recovered more than $700 worth of liquor stolen overnight from the Humboldt Street liquor store.

Police said nine or 10 cases of liquor were taken. Entry was gained when a panel in the back door was kicked out after it had been ringed with holes made by a brace and bit.

Hanging Wall Shored Up

The easterly wall of Oak Bay Produce, 2194 Oak Bay Ave., which has been hanging unsupported since the foundation collapsed Thursday, has been shored up to prevent further damage. But Oak Bay building inspector Kenneth Cunningham said last night the produce store, and Club Tango on the upper floor will remain closed until a permanent foundation is constructed.

No Sideburns or Duck-Cuts Among These 'Troops'

Pleased with new regular issue blue cap of militia is Gnr. Allen Rendle, 17, of Mt. Douglas High School, member of students' "B" Troop of 5th (B.C.) Independent Medium Battery, RCA. "Training and discipline have added immeasureably to character and self-confidence of these lads," says Major F. D. Nelson, commanding officer.

Barrelling along at great rate these days is student-gunner troop of 5th (B.C.) Independent Medium Battery, RCA (Militia). Some 35 Greater Victoria high school students meet every Saturday morning at Bay Street Armory to learn ins and outs of such artillery as this 155 mm. howitzer. Program is believed first of kind in Western Canada. All district high schools are represented. From left are Bdr. Harry Lum, 18, Mt. Douglas High; Gunners Colin Hessell, 17, Esquimalt High; Harvey Mackenzie, 17, Central Junior High; Frank Tovey, 16, Victoria High, and Colin Marmo, 17, Oak Bay High. — (Colonist photos.)

"Eyes Front" has more than one meaning in artillery militia, learns Gnr. Tom Masters, 16, of Oak Bay High, as he sights howitzer. A battery spokesman said yesterday: "The student program gives us a chance to build up the battery by adding youths of outstanding character. What's more, he added, there isn't a sideburn or duck-cut among the lot of them."

'They Feel, Too —Help Them'

By TED SHACKLEFORD

"There should be a place for pensioners . . . They have their feelings, too . . . I think the government should pay them a bit more money, or pay more attention to them."

They are the thoughts of an adult, but they came from 11-year-old Barbara Judson, 175 Ganges Crescent, who phoned me after she had seen a pensioner told to leave a city cafe.

"I was in the cafe and I saw this man sitting over at another table. He was alone and just sitting at the table. One of the waitresses came over and said, 'You can't stay here, you'll have to go home.'"

The man was a pensioner, one of the lonely hundreds who roam about downtown during the day, seeking warmth and companionship, if only by being near strangers.

"I asked the waitress couldn't he stay and she said no. I asked him to my table and the waitress said no, he couldn't stay in the store," Barbara said.

"It isn't fair. They don't treat them right. There should be a place where they can go.

"They have their feelings, too. They have children, they might want to buy their granddaughter something for Valentine's Day.

"I think the government should pay them a bit more money or pay more attention to them."

Barbara's reaction has been typical since the need for a downtown centre for pensioners was pointed out Thursday by Glen Hamilton, executive director of the Greater Victoria Community Welfare Council.

Robert H. French, 47 Hibberson Crescent, president of Old Age Pensioners' Association No. 3, and a director of the Silver Threads Service, also supports the need for a downtown centre.

"Not many pensioners go out at night," he said. "We are trying to get our own hall for recreation. We want the city to build us a hall in the city so we will have somewhere to go."

* * *

Yesterday I spent a further 97 cents, which reduced my money to exactly $12.78 . . . to last out the next 13 days. I bought another soup bone (10 cents), half a dozen eggs (25 cents), four slices of bacon (25 cents) and half a pound of pork liver (15 cents).

Breakfast was a bowl of corn flakes and puffed wheat with powdered milk and sugar, four slices of toast and margarine and three cups of coffee.

Lunch was two stale buns and two fresh doughnuts and a cup of coffee. Dinner was liver and bacon with onions, a small custard my landlady insisted I accept, and tea.

Today's breakfast will be the same as yesterday, lunch will be soup, two eggs and bacon and tea, and dinner will be the rest of the liver with onions, French fries and spinach, plus coffee.

Thirteen more days to go . . .

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A Place to Go Gravest Need Of Pensioners

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Colonist reporter Ted Shackleford has been assigned to live on $55 for a month to discover how senior citizens on old-age assistance payments live and what their problems are.

He will be available in The Daily Colonist office — EV 3-4111 — between 4 and 5 p.m. each day.

St. Matthias' Elects Church Wardens

M. L. Setter was re-elected rector's warden and J. J. Tippett appointed people's warden at the recent annual meeting of St. Matthias' Anglican Church.

Church committee includes Nick Addems, R. F. Allen, A. Collis, Donald Johnston, J. W. Mainguy, G. A. Malcolm, T. S. Price, R. W. Strouts, W. A. Tangye, and Y. P. Vesey.

R. H. FRENCH
. . . pensioners need centre

Jaycees Rap Arena

Unity Cracks In Rink Drive

Cracks are appearing in the ice of the "let's-all-push-together" program for a second Victoria ice surface.

The campaign to raise $123,000 will be launched by a big, two-night ice show at Memorial Arena Feb. 23 and 24.

"And it's the arena rent that rankles," said show publicist Roy Baker of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, which is supplying the biggest push in the fund drive.

"It hardly seems fair that the arena commission should be charging us the full price of $1,250 for the two nights.

"After all," he said, "they've come out publicly in support of our plan and eventually the 'Kids' Annex' will be all theirs.

Mr. Baker said the "everyone" included the city and its donation of the proposed ice rink property; the hundreds of adults and children performing free in the ice show; the 2,000 canvassers who will be working door-to-door Feb. 25, 26 and 27, and the other two ice show sponsors—Minor Hockey Association and Victoria Figure Skating Club.

NO MONEY LEFT

"Now we have no money left for promotion and publicity and we're having to go on bended knee to the news mediums to solicit their support."

Chairman of the arena commission, Ald. Frank Mulliner, last night said, "We have no other choice. We just never, never make exceptions.

"We're in full sympathy with the ice show and the fund drive, but if we make a concession this time, where will it all end?

"No, we've got to treat them all the same," he said. "We made a firm decision about it last year.

"They had some bad experiences years ago — before my time. After giving one worthwhile charity a special price, they found that someone else always comes along."

More canvassers are needed for the fund drive — particularly younger people 16 to 20.

GOING TO BENEFIT

"They're the ones who are going to benefit the most from the new ice surface," said Mr. Baker.

"So if they want to do something about those horribly crowded arena skating sessions, here's their chance." Would-be canvassers are asked to phone EV 3-4521.

Jaycees Apologize For Ticket Mix-Up

The Jaycees want to apologize to the 500 persons who failed to get tickets for the Feb. 23 and 24 ice show when they applied yesterday at the arena booth in the Hudson's Bay store. "It was just an unfortunate mix-up," they said. Tickets will be available tomorrow, however, and right up to showtime at both the department store and the arena box-office.

Drowned Tug Crewmen

Tragic Parade Slated Tuesday

A tragic parade, in the form of six hearses, will move along city streets from Hayward's funeral home to the Inner Harbor, shortly before 11 a.m. Tuesday.

Each hearse will carry the body of a crew member drowned after the U.S. tug Henry Foss went down in stormy seas off Salt Spring Island, Friday 13.

At Inner Harbor, six caskets will be put aboard the American vessel Iroquois, which is making a special run to carry the bodies of the seamen back to Port Angeles, where funeral arrangements are being made.

All six are from Port Angeles.

Jack Daley, diver and salvage expert for Island Tug and Barge Ltd., yesterday found the wreck of the 90-foot tug "in 20 to 25 fathoms," near Beaver Point, Orville Sund, official for Foss Launch and Tug Co., said last night.

An official inquiry into the tragedy probably will be held in Seattle, he said.

The diver did not survey extent of damage to the sunken tug, and no salvage arrangements have been made. "This is quite a tragedy, and our first concern is the humanitarian things we must do. Our second concern is physical property," Mr. Sund said.

Coroner Miles M. Acheson yesterday adjourned until Friday an inquest at Ganges into the deaths of the men lost when the Henry Foss struck a reef and sank shortly after midnight.

Victims were Lawrence Berg, 56, Richard T. Lothian, Capt. Warren Waterman, 47, Erick W. Danielson, 60, Martin Gullstein, 51, and Oswald H. Sorenson, 47, all of Port Angeles.

Sole survivor, Edward Hanson, 41, last night was said to be "resting comfortably" at Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital at Ganges where he was listed as being in "satisfactory condition."

Dock Worker Hurt on Ship

George Burnett, 1052 Topaz, is in good condition at St. Joseph's Hospital today after receiving hip injuries while helping load a ship at Ogden Point grain elevator.

Fellow longshoremen said he was jammed briefly between a grain trimmer and hatch about 3.30 p.m. yesterday aboard the freighter Arizona.

City Flight Cadet Completes Training

Flight Cadet J. L. Stothard has completed 30 weeks of basic flying training at RCAF station Moose Jaw, Sask., the air force announced.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Stothard, 2251 Cadboro Bay Road.

Native Daughters Ex-Leader Dies

Miss Madge Hampton, 65, a member of a pioneer Victoria family and past factor of the Native Daughters of B.C., died Friday in St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver.

She moved from Victoria to Vancouver several years ago.

Surviving are two sisters, Mrs. Peter J. Sigalet of Vancouver, and Mrs. J. W. Allin of Lulu Island; and two brothers, Richard and Wilfred, both of Vancouver.

Food Stall Needs Everything

Food Demand Terrific And So Is the Need

Demands on Victoria's Free Food Stall have been "just terrific lately," says stall operator Mrs. Alice Harper.

"As a result, our needs are also terrific."

The long-time, unpaid champion of the city's aged pensioners and other needy people said yesterday "we need any kind of food at all that anyone can spare.

"Even if it's food some housewives may have left when they're cleaning out their deep-freezes."

Mrs. Harper wondered "if I dare ask for butter and tea. After all, these poor old pensioners never know anything but margarine."

The stall could also use a bit of cash, she said.

"That's so we can buy some of the things not ordinarily donated—like certain vegetables, powdered milk and margarine."

Next stall day will be this coming Saturday at the market place. Ticket-holders can get their food at 1 p.m.

Anyone wishing to donate cash or food can reach Mrs. Harper at EV 3-9874 or 1595 Rockland.

Last Run from Bus Depot

Chunk of Victoria Rolls with Islander

When the big Islander rolls out of the Broughton Street bus depot at 6.45 p.m. this Friday, a big chunk of Victoria history will be rolling out with it.

Because that will be the last run of thousands and thousands of runs that have been made out of the doomed old building, doomed to be demolished to make way for a parking lot.

Vancouver Island Coach Lines will start the buses rolling out of its new quarters in the Black Ball Building Saturday morning.